



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

2024-2027

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON · HAMPTON COURT PALACE · BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE · KEW PALACE · HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS



WELCOME

At Historic Royal Palaces we recognise the urgent need to act in response to climate change and the loss of nature. We must act now to ensure the health of our environment, the safety of the remarkable buildings and gardens that we care for, and the wellbeing of everyone who experiences them.

When we talk about Historic Royal Palaces being a charity for everyone, we mean people now and those who are yet to come. That's why one of our aims is to act for the future and make a positive impact on the planet.

The overall goal of our sustainability work is to be nature-positive and carbon net zero across all three emission scopes by 2050. This sustainability action plan, 2024–2027, sets out our next steps to get there, guided by in-depth audits, robust evidence, and science-driven data to ensure we're taking a best-practice approach.

Working in a multi-disciplinary way, we will: invest in carbon and water reduction and sustainable practices; use our estate to generate clean energy, increase biodiversity and climate resilience; embed sustainable decision-making across our value chain; and inspire those who visit and engage with us onsite, offsite, and online.

This is the next step in our sustainability journey. Thank you for joining us.

John Barnes
Chief Executive
June 2024



Scope 1:

direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources we control or own such as combustion of gas in boilers and fuel in vehicles.

Scope 2:

indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling.

Scope 3:

indirect emissions from our value chain, upstream and downstream emissions from activities that we do not directly control.

OUR VISION

Historic Royal Palaces will achieve nature-positive carbon net zero across all three emission Scopes by 2050.

We will be bold in the action we take, not being afraid to use our Palaces as showcases for innovative technologies and approaches.

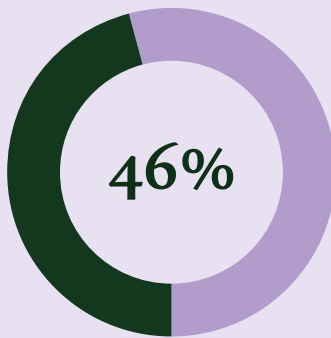
We will work as one organisation, embedding sustainable decision making at the heart of our governance with all staff taking responsibility for the role they play.

We will be open about the lessons we learn, using them as opportunities to continually develop our thinking. We welcome discussion and challenge with our visitors, peers and staff and will work with our internal and external networks to drive change outside of our direct remit.

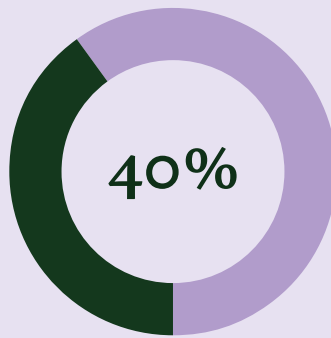
OUR GOAL

Achieve nature-positive carbon net zero across our estates and value chain by 2050

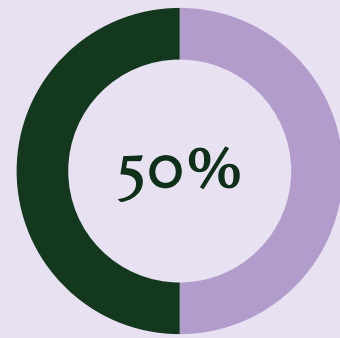
SHORT TERM



reduction in Scope 1 + 2 emissions by 2027



reduction in energy consumption by 2035



of energy will be generated renewably on site by 2035 with the remaining 50% coming from assured renewable sources

What do we mean by 'nature positive'?

The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and, as custodians of around 1,000 acres of protected parkland, gardens and outdoor spaces, we take our responsibility to conserve and improve the biodiversity in our care very seriously.

HOW WE'LL GET THERE

Our plan to 2027 will focus on 3 core areas of delivery which set the foundations for our longer-term ambitions:

People | Data | Actions



PEOPLE

Objective:

Engage our staff, stakeholders, partners and visitors. We'll share our plans and inspire people to play a more active role both within our organisation and in their own lives and communities.

Key metric:

Surveys will demonstrate that >75% of staff are aware of HRP's sustainability vision and their role in delivering it.





DATA

Objective:

Improve the consistency and quality of our data collection and reporting of our emissions, including a timeline for the capture of Scope 3 emissions.

Key metric:

By 2025 we will have a full baseline for scopes 1, 2 and 3.



ACTIONS

Objective:

We will identify and implement immediate actions which will help us achieve nature-positive carbon net zero across our estates by 2050.

Key metric:

By 2027 we will have reduced our scope 1 & 2 emissions by 46% from our baseline year.



OUR WORK SO FAR

Sustainable Planting The Pond Garden, Hampton Court Palace

Our work across our outdoor estate is driven by one of our three charitable goals: to act for the future. That means making the natural environments of our palaces more resilient to climate change while also being more sustainable and supporting biodiversity.

Recently we've trialled some significant changes in The Pond Garden at Hampton Court Palace with a new planting scheme that enables us to reduce emissions and our use of key resources in heating glasshouses and water. We're doing this by introducing more permanent planting such as structural Trachycarpus palms, bay trees and hydrangeas alongside bold perennial flowers for a flamboyant display. We are also planting permanent foliage for a tropical feel and the reduced cultivation of the soil helps improve its structure.



Exhibition Emissions

Untold Lives: A Palace at Work at Kensington Palace

As part of the 2024 exhibition at Kensington Palace, Untold Lives: a Palace at Work, the project team are auditing the carbon emissions involved in putting on an exhibition, from the transport miles of loan items to the CO₂ emissions from producing materials.


We are working hard to minimise the inherently wasteful elements in temporary exhibitions through re-use, recycling, careful choice of materials and actively designing to reduce waste. Historic Royal Palaces has built up a large stock of modular showcases, label stands, AV kits and lighting and recycle, re-purpose and re-use wherever possible. Drawing on expertise from the museum sector we are using the Design Museums Tool Kit for recording data and 'Untold Lives' will act as a benchmark year from which we aim to improve.




Decarbonisation

Removing fossil fuels at the Tower of London and Hampton Court

Our palaces are constantly evolving, with central heating, electricity, running water and WiFi all being added over the course of centuries. We're now looking at the next stage of their evolution, working out how we remove fossil fuels from their operations and how they can be used to generate clean energy. Alongside expert partners, we've already completed high-level decarbonisation studies at HM Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace, our two largest sites, and more detailed feasibility and design works on the initial projects are underway. We'll complete high-level studies at Hillsborough Castle and Kensington Palace in 2024 allowing us to build and cost our programme of works. This won't be a quick or easy process: the palaces are vast and complex buildings, rich in important architecture and collections. However, decarbonisation is an important step we need to take to ensure their future is as bright as their past.

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